Generating Activities suited to their skill, aptitude and local canditions. A Revolving Fund amounting to Rs. 25,000/- per group is given to meet their working capital requirements. DWCRA groups can get training under TRYSEM and avail of credit and subsidy under TRDP.

(c) DWCRA programme, besides providing income generating skills and activities to poor women in rural areas, aims at enhancing the welfare and quality of life of the family and the community by improving the access of the rural women to health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition etc., With a view to achieving the objective, new initiatives have been taken up during the 8th Five Year Plan such as enhancement of amount of Revolving fund from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 per group to enable the DWCRA women to take up higher investments and non-traditional activities, incorporating Child Care Activities in DWCRA with the objective of providing creche services for the children of working DWCRA women, setting up of literacy centres for DWCRA women, filling the critical gaps in the areas of immunization, nutrition etc., Information, Education and Communication Activities have been incorporated in DWCRA programme with the objective of generating awareness amongst the rural women. Implementation of Community Based Convergent Services (CBCS) programme has also been taken up in 141 districts with the objective of creating more awarness among the communities to enable them to demand social services and converging the programmes of ICDS, Drinking Water, National Literacy Mission, Mahila Samakhya programmes at grass root level.

(d) A Statement is given in the Annexure [*See Appendix 179, annexure no 45*]

Socio-Economic Development of States

2101. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the States which are backward in respect of socio-economic development;

(b) what are the steps initiated/ contemplated to ascertain and analyse the causes of this backwardness;

(c) the details of projects/policies planned to accelerate their development; and

(d) what is the execution level/status of each of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OR THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission have not identified any State as backward in term of socio-economic development. However, in allocation of Central assistance for State's Plans, special consideration is shown to requirements of certain States classified as Special category States namely Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and States located in North-East, which have a weak resource base. In addition, the modified formula for distribution of Central assistance, approved by NDC in 1991, is suitably weighed in favour of relatively economically under-developed States. Funds are also released under Special Area Programmes to supplement the efforts of the States to develop special problem areas.

Contractors under EAS

2102. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employment Assurance Scheme was launched in the country to provide a minimum 100 days work to the rural poor at their door-step,